LAVENDER®

Since 1995

MEET
THOMAS SØNDERGÅRD
OF THE **MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA**

REPLACING YOUR WINDOWS FROM **RENEWAL BY ANDERSEN**

LET **NEW SPACES** RENOVATE YOUR HOME

Summer
Home & Garden Issue

729 MAY 4-17, 2023
MINNESOTA'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE
LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
ISSUU READ US ONLINE AND IN THE APP!
FACEBOOK / LAVENDERMAGAZINE
INSTAGRAM / @LAVENDERMAGAZINE

GORGEOUS WINDOWS. GREAT SERVICE!

BUY ONE, GET ONE

40% OFF

WINDOWS AND DOORS[1]

Minimum purchase of 4.

AND

TAKE AN EXTRA

$50 OFF

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE[1] Minimum purchase of 4.

PLUS, $0 MONEY DOWN, $0 MONTHLY PAYMENTS, $0 INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS[1]

Minimum purchase of 4. Interest accrues from purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

Our Signature Service includes EVERYTHING.

1

DESIGN CONSULTATION

Our design consultants provide in-home or no-contact virtual meetings to listen to your design needs and provide a plan to improve your home.

2

MEASURE & MANUFACTURE

Project technicians ensure accuracy and answer any last minute questions before sending in the order for your fully customized windows.

3

INSTALLATION & FINISHING

Our installers treat your home as if it were their own and clean up afterwards.

4

ONGOING CUSTOMER CARE

A robust limited warranty is backed by a commitment to making sure your windows function as expected.

Remember full service? You will when we replace your windows!

No one makes it easier to get the beautiful replacement windows you deserve than Renewal by Andersen. We do it ALL for you – from design to custom manufacturing to installation by our Certified Master Installers. And we back it all with the Nation's Best Warranty![†]

Call today for special savings!

Signature SERVICE "EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE"[a]

#1 CUSTOMER COMMENT

More 5 Star Reviews

Than Other Leading Full-Service Window Replacement Companies[‡]

RENEWAL BY ANDERSEN HAS THE NATION'S BEST WARRANTY[†] COVERAGE Fully Transferable FIBREX® MATERIAL INSTALLATION HARDWARE GLASS

CUSTOM BUILT IN THE USA*

BeautifulReplacementWindows.com

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Hurry, Offer Ends June 3!
Call for a FREE consultation.

612-467-9909

[1]**DETAILS OF OFFER:** Offer expires 6/3/2023. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months $0 money down, $0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 5/4/2023 and 6/3/2023. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional $50 off your purchase, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 6/3/2023. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License MN:BC130983/WI:266951. Excludes MN insurance work per MSA 325E.66.Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. [a]Based on Medallia homeowner satisfaction surveys of Renewal by Andersen customers 2015-June 2021. Average scores between 9 and 10 using Net Promoter Score methodology on all survey questions after installation project completed [†]It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. [‡]Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading full service window replacement companies. December 2020 Reputation."Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2023 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA13348

*Using U.S. and imported parts.

SUBARU

The 2024 Subaru Crosstrek. Whatever adventures you have in mind, you can get there with the confidence of standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive. There's also a 2.5-liter direct-injection SUBARU BOXER engine available to give the 2024 Crosstrek up to 182 horsepower. With the Crosstrek, your journey goes on and on – 97% of Subaru Crosstrek vehicles sold in the last 10 years are still on the road today, more than Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4, or Jeep Compass.*

*Based on Experian Automotive vehicles in operation vs. total new registrations for MY2011-2021 as of December 2021.

Luther | Bloomington Subaru

Visit us at our new location!

500 American Boulevard West, Bloomington

www.bloomingtonsubaru.com | 763-392-9959

CONTENTS

LAVENDER

ISSUE 729 May 4-17, 2023

Summer Home & Garden

18 MCAD Annual Auction Celebrates 10th Year

20 Celebrating "Queerness" at Art-A-Whirl

26 Window Shopping - Renewal by Andersen Takes The Pain Out Of Pane Shopping

32 New Spaces Is an Innovative Take on Home Remodels (Just in Time for Spring!)

Photo courtesy of Renewal by Andersen

10: Photo courtesy of Tamarah Gehlen, 16: Photo by Chris McDuffie, 40: Photo by George Torline

OUR LAVENDER
8 From the Editor
9 A Word in Edgewise
10 Biz Buzz

OUR SCENE
12 Travel: Detroit
14 Thomas Søndergård Takes Over The Minnesota Orchestra

OUR AFFAIRS
37 Books

OUR RESOURCES
38 Community Connection
39 The Network

OUR VOICES
39 Jamez Sitings

OUR HOMES
40 Our Rides

ON THE COVER
Thomas Søndergård. Photo by Chris McDuffie

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
Exclusive online content available on our website. Visit ISSUU.COM or download our app to read our Digital Edition.

See connection as a way forward.

See mental health .org

Together, we can find ways to support our mental wellness and bring hope to others.

Made possible by Hennepin County

speakers • entertainment • food trucks • resources & more!

MAY 13, 2023

WALK TO END HIV

MINNESOTA

PERFORMANCES BY

LUSH LOUNGE THEATER

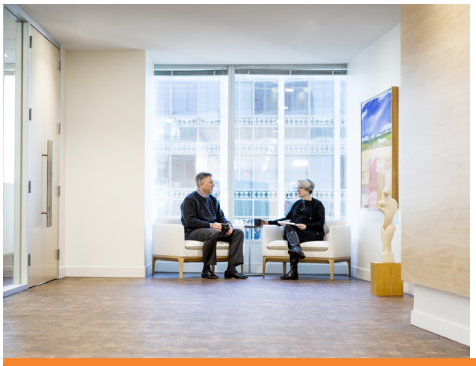
AND MORE!

COMO MIDWAY PICNIC PAVILION

St Paul, Minnesota • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

RAINBOW HEALTH

mnwalktoendhiv.org



Locally sourced advocacy and advice from lawyers you know.

Custody & Parenting Time • Child Support
Dissolution • Spousal Maintenance
Complex Valuation • Domestic Partnership
Adoption • Third Party Custody • Appeals

612.339.7121 BEST & FLANAGAN www.bestlaw.com

Celebrating 20 Years in Business!

Roya Moltaji, CFP®, ChFC®, CASL™, CAP®, BFA™
Financial Planner,
Financial Services Representative

100 S 5th St, Suite 2300,
Minneapolis MN 55402
rmoltaji@financialguide.com

ROYA
DREAM • VISION • PLAN Relational Financial Planning

Call Roya today at
952-769-2126
WWW.ROYAMOLTAJI.COM

California Insurance License # 0L09941 Securities and investment advisory services offered through qualified registered representatives of MML Investors Services, LLC. Member SIPC. Roya, LLC is not a subsidiary or affiliate of MML Investors Services, LLC, or its affiliated companies. OSJ Office: (612) 333-1413

CRN202202-2301096

NORTHLAND VISIONS
NATIVE AMERICAN ART & GIFTS

NORTHLAND VISIONS

MINNESOTA'S Best 2021 SILVER WINNER

NATIVE ARTWORK • JEWELRY • BLANKETS • WILD RICE & GIFTS
www.northlandvisions.com

861 East Hennepin Ave, Mpls, MN • 612-872-0390 • Tues-F 10-5:30PM Sat 10-5PM

LAVENDER®

Volume 28, Issue 729 · May 4-17, 2023

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor Randy Stern 612-461-8723
Editorial Assistant Linda Raines 612-436-4660
Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner
Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer
Contributors Linden M. Bayliss, Lakey Bridge, Buer Carlie, Terrance Griep, Elise Maren, Jen Peebles-Hampton, Karri Plowman, Analise Pruni, Linda Raines, Gabrielle Reeder, Aurora Smith, Jamez L. Smith, Susan Swavely, Carla Waldemar, Todd P. Walker

ADVERTISING

Vice President of Sales & Advertising
Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690
Account Executives
Nathan Johnson 612-436-4695
Richard Kranz 612-436-4675
Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer
Sales & Event Administration
Linda Raines 612-436-4660
National Sales Representatives
Rivendell Media 212-242-6863

CREATIVE

Creative/Digital Director Mike Hnida 612-436-4679
Photographer Sophia Hantzes

ADMINISTRATION

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.
President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665
Chief Financial Officer Tracey Mittelstadt 612-436-4664
Administrative Assistant Honora Valentine 612-436-4660
Distribution Metro Periodical Partners 612-281-3249
Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford
Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013), Tim Campbell (1939-2015), John Townsend (1959-2019)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 5100 Eden Ave, Suite 107, Edina, MN 55436 or e-mail editor@lavendermagazine.com.

For our Privacy Policy, go to LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy

LAVENDER MEDIA, INC.

5100 Eden Ave, Suite 107, Edina, MN 55436
612-436-4660 **Office**
612-436-4660 **Subscriptions/Distribution**
612-436-4660 **Lavender Advertising**

LAVENDER MAGAZINE.COM
BIG GAY NEWS .COM
Verified Vendor

mmpa Lavender 2016 Magazine of the Year

Printer of Lavender
Schumann Printers, Inc.
920-484-3348

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Entire contents copyright 2023. All rights reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender® Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender® Magazine is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover. Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.

STP PRIDE

St. Paul Pride

CELEBRATING US!

Live music all day!

HOST: Comic, Ashli Henderson
June 10 • 10am-7pm
Rice Park

Hiway Credit Union · metroNOME · Mitsubishi Motors Drive your Ambition White Bear Mitsubishi · Saint Paul Downtown Alliance · Gambit Brewing Company • STPMN

stppride.org

Get Growing this Spring

Seward Co-op has everything you need to foster growth this spring season. Whether you're selecting soil to re-pot a dear plant, picking new seeds or starter plants for your garden, or choosing a houseplant to brighten up this Mother's Day, we're here to help you bloom.

Seward COMMUNITY CO-OP

2823 E. Franklin Ave., MPLS
& 317 E. 38th St., MPLS
www.seward.coop

CHALLENGES are what make life interesting.
OVERCOMING them is what makes life **MEANINGFUL.**
Don't miss out on the **OPPORTUNITY** of a lifetime in the **MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.**

- $20K enlistment bonus (Based on MOS and eligibility)
- 100% college tuition (Based on U of MN rate)
- Paid work experience
- Full time benefits

MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

NationalGuard.com/MN

Home is Where The Heart Is

BY RANDY STERN

Home is where the heart is.

You can feel the essence of home whenever you walk into the door, take off your shoes and get comfortable after a tough day's work. It is the goal for any of us who put in the time to take advantage of your domain to relax, recover, and settle in to do it all again.

What makes a home worth living in? You appreciate it better after an extended period of time away from it. I'm not talking about coming home from a vacation here – unless that vacation turned out not the way you had envisioned it.

A good example is from a recent extended health issue that landed me in the hospital for longer than I anticipated. That, on top of being transferred to a transitional care unit to get physical therapy and further care. For the stretch of over six weeks, I was constantly yearning to get home.

Through that stretch of time, I never took any time off of work. I'm always working no matter what. Wi-Fi becomes your friend, as does the phone. The laptop was always on, as was my e-mail.

Yet, there is nothing like the comfort of home. From a good wi-fi connection to a comfortable bed. Plus, all of the amenities and comforts you created in your home.

Every day throughout my six-plus weeks away from home, I yearned for all of the above. Since being discharged, I enjoyed being in my familiar environment. It is a good feeling to say that with pride.

For this quarterly Home and Garden issue, we are featuring a famous name in windows – Andersen. We will be spotlighting the Bayport-based window producer's Renewal program. Plus, a renovation company called New Spaces, where they will transform your home into something of a dream. They have great ideas for your home, too!

What's a home without art? The Minneapolis College of Art is holding their 10th Annual Auction of works by their students, alumni, and faculty. That, along with the annual Art-A-Whirl and its focus on the studios and works throughout the Nordeast Minneapolis Arts District. Between these two events this month, there is something that would bring a spark to your humble abode.

We always offer a twist to our issues. That twist comes with the new Artistic Director at the Minnesota Orchestra, Thomas Søndergård. We get to chat with him about what he brings to Orchestra Hall starting this coming season.

Before I let you go deeper into this issue, we have three big issues coming up after this: The Small Town/Community Pride issue, the Pride issue, and our *Lavender* Community Awards. All leading up to this year's Twin Cities Pride!

This summer, make your home as proud as you are! It all starts with putting your heart into where you live! ∎

QUORUM SECTION

QUORUM SECTION

One Of Many "What Ifs?"

BY E.B. BOATNER

"Facebook?" some friends may say. "You spend time on Facebook?" Yes, well, it's a lot like anything else. You can search and sift and find most anything, trash or treasure depending on your definition of either one. I like science information, I like satire, sometimes I just like to veg out and scroll. I notice more special interest groups are posting bios, photos of various "excluded" folks; those overshadowed, discounted lives many live(d) and the actual, unacknowledged things they've accomplished.

Women working in the early computer field were brought to visibility through the film *Hidden Figures* (from Margot Lee Shetterly's 2016 *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*.) One, Katherine Johnson, was awarded the American Medal of Freedom in 2015. In 1962, John Glenn, before the first Earth orbit aboard Friendship 7, insisted that Johnson manually check the accuracy of the electronic computer's numbers.

Shutting out, cutting off is everywhere, in every field. On April 2, 1931, 17-year-old Jackie Mitchell, only the second woman to sign an Organized Baseball contract, struck out mighty Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, one-two. Shortly afterward, Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Landis stripped Mitchell of her contract, claiming life in baseball was simply "too strenuous" for a girl. Debate that with today's athletes, Simone Biles or Serena Williams.

One could list so many individuals shuttered, confined, repressed for their sex, gender, race, religion, intelligence, or a myriad other threats to the powers that be. Explain to those who will not hear how if exercise is forbidden a child–boy or girl–will lack strength; that if books are forbidden, an unlettered child or adult can safely be deemed unintelligent, stupid.

A Facebook announcement of a current Met exhibit clarifies what I'm struggling to say. A photograph of a seventeenth century Velásquez painting of a Black man. Clothed in dark fabric, set off by a wide, white lace shawl collar, he stands erect, in three-quarter profile, his gaze–direct but guarded–meets your eye.

Unlike most of the excluded, his name is known: Juan de Pareja. Born around 1608 in Vallejo, Spain, he was Velásquez's property, his enslaved servant and assistant. Parejo ground pigments, stretched canvases, perhaps painted duplicates–in any event, also taught himself to paint.

For the exhibit, in fact, is not about Velásquez's genius and art, but about Parejo's. At the Met through July 16, the exposition of Pareja's own canvases and sculptures offers a rebuttal to those with blanket predictions concerning "all women," "all Blacks," "all fill- in-the-threat."

Even this exhibition owes much–as the Met itself posts–to Harlem Renaissance collector and scholar Arturo Schomburg, who from 1910 was vital to the recovery of Pareja's work and to whom is owed this connection between seventeenth-century Spain and the current exhibit, drawing together the threads of numerous histories written about Pareja.

What, the viewer is drawn to wonder, did the genius Velásquez think about being the owner of such a man? We'll never know for sure, but after holding Pareja in servitude, several months after completing this portrait in early 1650, in Rome, Velásquez signed a contract of manumission for Pareja, to come into effect in four years. It did, and Pareja picked up his brushes.

Those papers are included in the exhibition along with Pareja's canvases. And that revelatory Velásquez portrait. ∎

QUORUM SECTION

Make sure your Business, Organization or Event is part of
LAVENDER 2023 PRIDE EDITION

To reserve ad space, call
612-436-4660
or email
info@lavendermagazine.com

Deadline: May 12, 2023
Published: June 1, 2023

Available in print, online, and on the Issuu app.
Lavender is distributed at more than 430 sites, including around all major Pride events.

Jamie Nabozny, Agent
Nabozny & Associates, INC.
(763) 424-7933
jnabozny@amfam.com
Se habla español

AS YOUR DREAMS EVOLVE, WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

Whether you're buying your first car or your retirement home, American Family Insurance is with you every step of the way, ensuring that your dreams are always protected.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE®

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & Its Operating Companies, American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
008747 – Rev. 12/15 ©2015 – 18737338

QUORUM SECTION

Dr. Tamarah Gehlen of Transformational Therapy Services

BY LINDA RAINES

Photo courtesy of Tamarah Gehlen

Business: Transformational Therapy Services
Your Name: Dr. Tamarah Gehlen, LMFT LADC CCTP FLE (Dr. Tam)
Job Title: Owner/Therapist

Give us a brief overview of your business and what services you provide the community: As the name implies, we provide transformational, not transactional, therapy care. We specialize in trauma, relationships, grief and loss, addiction, and general mental health support for teens and adults. People can come to see us in person at our Rockford, MN office, or can reach us from anywhere in Minnesota via telehealth. We know that there are many people that do not have high-quality access to individualized mental health and addiction supports – so we want to get our name and information out there so everyone in Minnesota can reach us when they need to.

How many years have you been in business? Transformational Therapy Services just opened in October 2022; however, I have been providing therapeutic services since 2008.

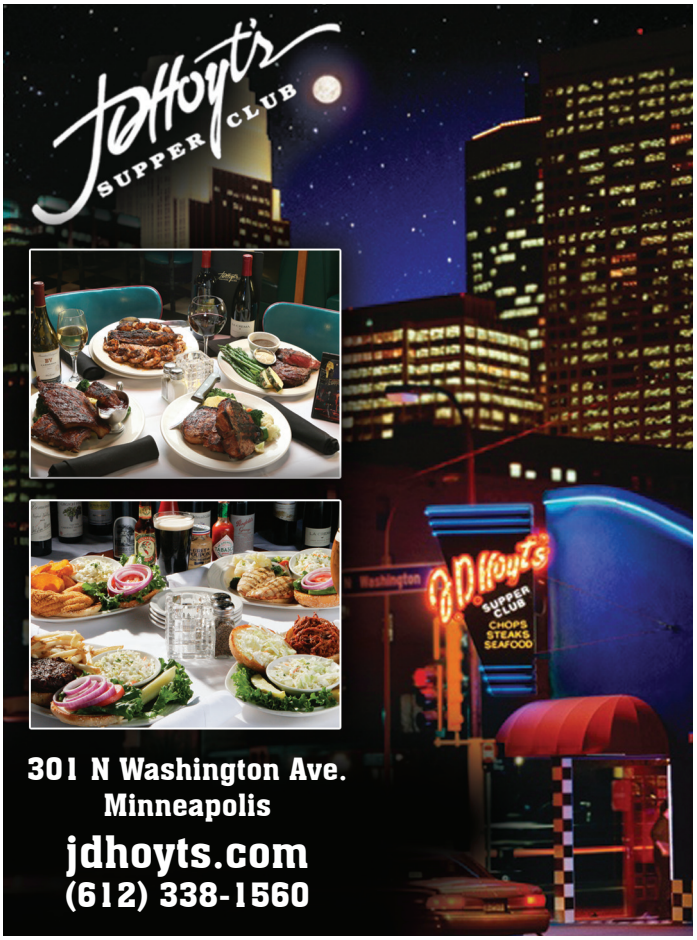
What's something unique we should know about your business? As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I can understand and empathize with the unique difficulties that folx may struggle with, on top of the everyday life events that can overwhelm us. Every provider who works with us at this time has dual licensure in addiction and mental health as these issues commonly co-occur.

What's your favorite thing about your job? It is an honor to hear anyone's story – and it is such a beautiful thing to see someone come home to themselves and be the healthiest, best version of themselves.

What's the best thing about working with the LGBTQ community? We are a vibrant, creative, and diverse group who have so much strength and resilience! There is a lot of hurt, unfortunately, in our community – and it is my honor (along with so many others) to help people fully step into themselves and their own personal power.

Does your business have anything new, fun or unique happening on the horizon? We will be starting groups both in person and online starting in January 2023: Grief and Loss, Self-esteem, LGBTQIA+ youth group, Addiction Resilience Group (could be used as a first step towards addressing problematic substance use, or as an additional support after treatment). We need at least 6 people registered for a group to start the group – for folx who are interested, please email info@transformationaltherapymn.com and let us know what group you would like to be a part of!

If you weren't doing your current job, what would you be doing? I am a National-level speaker, and also an adjunct graduate-level Associate Professor of Addictions and Mental Health at St. Mary's University, Twin Cities. Teaching/training and providing therapy are the greatest professional loves of my life! ∎



JUST SAY SELA!
SELA
ROOFING AND REMODELING
MN License #CR001050
Free Estimates - Call!
612-326-1716
www.selaroofing.com
Ask about our industry leading warranties!
STAR TRIBUNE READERS' CHOICE
MINNESOTA'S Best
2022 GOLD WINNER
BBB
As a member of the Better Business Bureau, you can trust Sela to help you protect the investment you've made in your home!
VISA
THE BEST CHOICE FOR RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ROOFING
• Siding • Windows
Roof Repair • Gutters
• FREE Hail Damage Assessment
• Storm Damage Restoration
Specializing in Insurance Claims
OWENS CORNING PLATINUM PREFERRED CONTRACTOR
GAF Master Elite

Benjamin Moore
Benjamin Moore
ben
INTERIOR
MATTE
Wall color: Benjamin Moore Cinnamon 2174-20
from Benjamin Moore's 2023 Paint Color Trends
Hirshfield's
Paints • Wallcoverings • Blinds & Shades
Visit the Benjamin Moore experts at Hirshfield's for unmatchable service and paint color advice – find us at hirshfields.com

Eastside FOOD CO-OP
PLANT SALE
2551 CENTRAL AVE NE
IN THE EASTSIDE PARKING LOT
EASTSIDE FOOD CO-OP
MAY 6– MAY 29

D-Tour

BY CARLA WALDEMAR

Just like the humans who populate their streets, cities themselves have a gender, I'd contend. Paris presents a feminine façade; so does New Orleans.

Detroit is decidedly masculine—all muscle, all the time, as ordained by its signature architecture: a skyline of towers as beacons of the amplitude of the 1920s, flaunting taste and money. More recent structures, like the riverfront's iconic GM Renaissance Center, continue the can-do theme.

So, on Day One of a visit, a formal or DIY architecture tour presents a grand intro (check www.visitdetroit.com to locate one). Everybody's favorite is the 1925 Guardian Building, a flamboyant Mayan Revival Deco wonderland blazing with mosaics, murals and stunning geometry.

Or, how about art closer to the sidewalk? Seek out downtown's 'secret' alley called The Belt, dressed in vivid murals, where even the parking ramps are cloaked in eye-catching patterns. Design also reigns at nearby Parker's Alley, flanked by indie shops such as Rebel Nell—femme-created accessories made from recycled everything, including Detroit Lions' jackets.

Speaking of design, peek into neighboring Shinola Hotel and, also on Woodward—downtown's shopping/dining/transit artery—the Shinola shop, presenting leather goods, bikes and its stylish signature watches for the monied shopper.

Follow Woodward with a hop a free tram ride on the Q line to Campus Martius, downtown's outdoor living room (fountains, bandstand, picnic benches) and an adjoining block of public basketball courts backed by murals designed "for people who'd never visit a gallery."

Then it's off to the Riverwalk, where outdoor sculptures erupt (along with an antique cannon, aimed at Canada across the river. You never know). Follow the three-plus-mile promenade past welcoming Adirondack chairs to a carousel, whose bobbing seats showcase Midwestern critters like walleye and heron.

By now, I'm ready to put up my feet at my hotel, The Foundation–a comfy resurrected fire station that's now so trendy you won't find mere soap in the bathroom—instead, a "body cleansing bar."

Decaying neighborhoods have been given new life, too. Corktown, once home to penniless Irish immigrants, has emerged from its gritty roots as a center of urban hip. Today it's flush with bars and cafes like Slows Barbecue, where the kitchen's pulled pork sandwich is its best-seller (for good reasons). It's just steps away from Two James Distillery (tours and samples) and the Michigan Central Train Station, to emerge in 2024 as a new community creative center.

Midtown, reached by the Q line (which also passes the arenas of the city's four professional teams: Go Lions! Go Tigers!), boasts three of the city's top attractions, leading off with the Detroit Institute of Art. During the lean years, city fathers threatened to sell off its masterpieces to solve the city's debt.

Didn't happen. In fact, it got improved. Now, signage invites visitors to compare and contrast perspectives of the times—say, a somber, generic Madonna of the medieval era with a Madonna as a happy young mother of the Renaissance. Look, the museum suggests, at art as theater, as used by the Catholic church to combat rising Protestantism—or as a political tool, as the nouveaux riches memorialize themselves via portraits.

Jump from Breughel to Botticelli to Fra Angelico's angel, on to the likes of Georgia O'Keefe and Andy Warhol. Yet the uncontested magnet remains the murals of Diego Rivera—an entire room showcasing Detroit's achievements, noting inventions good (smallpox vaccine) and bad (bomb development), culminating in the men-and-machine glory of the Ford Motor Plant. (See if you can spot Edsel's portrait.)

Walk a few blocks further to discover the Wright Museum of African American History, which conveys the tragic story of captives in Africa passing "the door of no return" as they're packed (sardines have it better) in slave ships. Visitors also climb aboard, then trudge below-deck before overhearing an American seaport's slave auction. View of the unheated slave cabins of a plantation; the self-emancipation (which Whites called 'runaway') and Underground Railroad paths to freedom in Canada, just across the river from us here in Detroit; and the city's wave of Southern Blacks during The Great Migration (many of whom equal-opportunity Ford hired and promoted in his auto plant). Thirty years after the Detroit race riot of 1943, Coleman Young becomes the city's first Black mayor.

You'll revisit some of this story at the Detroit Historical Museum, but a whole lot more, through vignettes, audio and film, beginning with the arrival of French explorer Cadillac, the land's deeding to the new American nation in 1796, and the huge economic boost the Erie Canal provided when it launched in 1825.

The auto industry got going in 1899, fueled by individuals named Dodge, Ford, Olds and Chrysler. The museum's Rotunda of Culture shows off more iconic advancements, decade by decade, from 1900 to 2000 (bikes to women's wear)—including the first concrete streets and traffic lights in the nation. Manufacturing exploded, but so did thuggery; during Prohibition,

(This Page) Motown Museum. Home of Hitsville U.S.A. Pulled pork sandwich, the best seller at Slows BarBq (Opposite Page) Statues of new arrivals gaze toward Canada across the Detroit River. Photos by Carla Waldemar

bootlegging booze from Canada across the river became the city's second-largest industry.

Next stop: Motown: Hitsville USA. "Stop! In the Name of Love" becomes your earworm as you await your tour guide here, where Berry Gordy founded his record company in 1959: a hit-development factory that created the world-famous Motown Sound. Open 24/7 for recording (and mentoring young musicians in dress and deportment as well), it served as headquarters for artists from the neighborhood (think: Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin, The Supremes). View record albums and performance outfits in the house where it all started—where the Gordy's dining table served as its shipping department and Berry's three telephones rang non-stop. Visit iconic Studio A, in which your tour guide invites the group to sing and dance to garner their own braggin' rights.

And who gets the dining awards in this city? For starters, Sheldon Standard, a repeat winner as Detroit's Best Restaurant. The high-energy room serves as a primo setting for sharing plates like a standout roasted carrot salad with coconut raita and dates; celery root Parmigiana layered, lasagna-like, with walnut pesto; and smoked lamb ribs brightened with agrodolce.

At the ornate second-story setting that's home to Wright & Company (oh, that chandelier!), a rich mushroom pate vies with a trio of pork belly sliders slathered with sriracha aioli as elite starters, to be followed with the likes of an imaginative cucumber salad where fish sauce and Parmesan mingle, or sea scallops dressed with candied bacon and crisped potatoes—standouts among the mains.

Parc, a classy bistro anchoring Campus Martius, knows its way around an indulgent crab bisque and abundant kale Caesar, competing for our attention with the dancing fountain just outside the window. In the DIA museum neighborhood, Common Pub elevates pub fare such as deviled eggs, presented here enriched with quick-fried shallots and truffle oil. Live dangerously and add a side of duck-fat fries.

To plan your own visit, consult www.visitdetroit.com ∎

TOP GAY CLUBS

SOHO Ferndale
Low-key, extensive wine list and classy cocktails, pool table, drag Bingo

Gigi's
Warrendale's premier dance floor, longest-running drag show in Michigan.

The Liberty
A classic for over 60 years, serving elevated pub grub; karaoke, dancing

Hayloft Saloon
Warrendale site with sports TV, happy hour specials, underwear parties

Adam's Apple
A key player in the "gay trio," including Hayloft and GiGi's

Ferndale Neighborhood
Many LGBTQ-owned businesses, Affirmative Community Center, Ringwald Theatre

LUNCH • DINNER • HAPPY HOUR • BRUNCH
CELEBRATIONS • MEETINGS • GATHERINGS
644 BAYFIELD ST, ST. PAUL 55107
HOLMANSTABLE.COM

LES JONES ROOFING

4.75 Rating Google

SERVING THE MPLS AREA IN ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR OVER 40 YEARS.
952.206.6775

BBB A+ Rating

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Les Jones Roofing | 941 W 80th St, Bloomington, MN 55420 | 952-206-6775

THOMAS SØNDERGÅRD

Takes Over The Minnesota Orchestra

BY BUER CARLIE

Photo by Greg Helgeson

Thomas Søndergård has recently been announced as the Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra for the 2023-24 season. If his name sounds familiar, it is likely because Søndergård had a marvelous run as music director designate at the Minnesota Orchestra last season and he has built an impressive career as a conductor prior to his time here in the Twin Cities.

The upcoming season promises to be a delightful continuation of the strong artistic relationship between Søndergård and the Minnesota Orchestra. We here at *Lavender* wanted to provide our readers will a brief overview of Søndergård, his relationship with the Minnesota Orchestra, and the 2023-24 season.

Søndergård grew up in a small Danish town that is known for being friendly to the arts. This upbringing allowed him the opportunity to discover his passion for music as a child, but he was also forced to grapple with his sexual orientation when he was still quite young. "I grew up in a smaller city and I knew early on that I was gay," Søndergård explains, "It was not that easy for me when I was younger."

Continued on page 16

MINNESOTA
ORCHESTRA

Music Director Thomas Søndergård's Inaugural Season

Ticket Packages On Sale Now

Order today for the best seats at the best price!

MINNESOTAORCHESTRA.ORG/SUBSCRIBE | 612-371-5642

Early Access

Subscribers get first access before tickets go on sale to the general public for these special performances, including all Movies & Music concerts.

Purchase by June 30 for the best seats!

Yuja Wang Debuts *with the Minnesota Orchestra*

Audra McDonald *with the Minnesota Orchestra*

U.S. BANK MOVIES & MUSIC
Frozen In Concert *with the Minnesota Orchestra*

PHOTO Søndergård: Chris McDuffie; McDonald: Allison Michael Orenstein; Frozen: © Disney.

Photo by Chris McDuffie

Even in musical spaces, Søndergård struggled with his identity. He fought against the perception that sections of the orchestra with "macho" reputations were off-limits (both to himself and his female peers) and watched his fellow youth orchestra members develop thrilling romances while on tour, disappointed by the feeling that this was off-limits to him. Ultimately, he did find love (he recently married his longtime partner, Andreas Landin) and success in his music career, but better representation and more inclusive environments in his youth would have gone a long way.

Perhaps unsurprisingly Søndergård now strives for inclusivity in his artistic spaces. "We need to make sure we include everybody in our work as musicians," he says, "It's a joy to see how far [classical music spaces have] come in the last ten years."

This shared value of inclusivity is one of the many reasons that Søndergård and the Minnesota Orchestra are such a good fit. "The whole team is so blooming and so inclusive and so welcoming," says Søndergård, "It's just the most perfect place to create art." This inclusivity can be seen in the choices the orchestra makes in conductors, musicians, composers, and more, and is part of why the 2023-24 season is so exciting.

The Minnesota Orchestra is a fulfilling place for Søndergård. "The people working in the house… feel so attached to the whole organization and I'm very proud to be a part of that. I can feel it when I'm there that the way that the audience supports their orchestra, their concert hall, is really unique. And I don't just say that. I've only experienced that in one other place in the world."

Søndergård built a strong relationship with the Minnesota Orchestra in the 2022-23 season, in large part due to his collaborative leadership style. "A conductor needs to see the musicians' potential and…awaken that," he explains. Although he concedes that one aspect of being in an orchestra means being part of a whole and therefore losing some creative freedom, he also argues that "it doesn't have to be black and white in that sense. You can actually make the musicians feel or understand that they contribute to something unique and you're not just a number of many numbers," he continues, "you need to find a creativity in each of the musicians and see their sparkle."

This is easy to do with an orchestra like the Minnesota Orchestra. "When I met [the Minnesota Orchestra] for the first time I was just blown away by their focus, their skills, their capability of working across the ensemble. The sheer energy and the sound from this orchestra is so…gathered," Søndergård stops himself, searching for the right English word to replace something ineffably Danish, "it is so settled and beautiful."

This feeling is very mutual. "It was just great that they felt the same with me," says Søndergård, "We knew immediately that we could do something very specific together – something very special."

While Søndergård is working as the Music Director for the Minnesota Orchestra, he and his husband will continue living overseas due to Landin's career as a baritone singer. "Singers develop their contacts very much around where they live," Søndergård explains, which makes it more difficult for Landin to uproot himself than it is for Søndergård. Still, he is looking forward to exploring a bit more of Minnesota when he is in town this season.

One of the few places Søndergård did have time to visit last year was George Floyd Square. "That was very important for me also to understand and to see," he says.

Søndergård is hopeful that the familiarity he has with some of the scores for this season will afford him more time to explore Minnesota in the 2023-24 season, "What I really want to do is drive longer distances…I get the chance to see so many corners of the world and am limited to a concert hall and a hotel room," he says, "I am so serious about I'm doing that I often do work quite a lot. I can still find new depths in it."

Søndergård is bringing those depths to the 2023-24 Minnesota Orchestra season. This season is intentionally crafted to appeal to everyone, from complete orchestra novices to the most diehard classical music fans. This broad appeal is indicative of celebrating specific interests and identities rather than operating under the assumption that the more generic choices will fare best.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Orchestra

The Music and Movies series continues (almost always conducted by the incredibly talented Sarah Hicks) with concerts ranging from the kid-friendly *Frozen* and *Home Alone* (this one conducted by Jason Seber) to horror movies like *Get Out* and *Werewolf by Night*.

There are also sensory-friendly concerts, yoga and mindfulness performances, and a distinctive array of holiday concerts celebrating New Year's, the Lunar New Year, Juneteenth, and Pride.

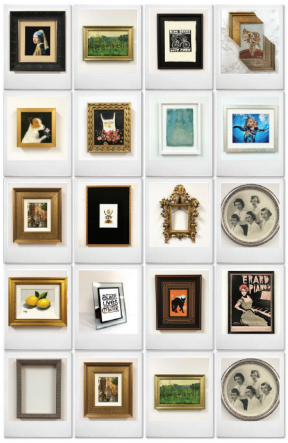
Søndergård will be conducting many concerts over the next season and all of them promise to be an absolute pleasure to experience. If you need a little guidance, though, we recommend the following:

- **Thomas' two festive opening weeks of concerts in the fall will be on:**
  September 21-23 (Søndergård Conducts Strauss and Mozart)
  September 28-30 (Daphnis and Chloe with the Minnesota Chorale)
- **And his festive Season Finale will be a Pride celebration:**
  June 20-22, 2024 (Celebrating Pride with Thomas Søndergård)

As of this writing tickets are only available as subscription packages, which requires purchasing three or more concerts. Single tickets will be available as of August 4.

As always, tickets can be purchased online or by phone. ∎

Minnesota Orchestra
1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 371-5642
www.minnesotaorchestra.org



FRAMEWORKS GALLERY

Custom Framing and Local Art
2022A Ford Parkway
St. Paul, MN 55116
651-698-3372

WWW.FRAMEWORKS-GALLERY.COM

LUNCHTIME DELIVERY EVERYWHERE
In by 10, there by noon.

651 South Cleveland, St. Paul
651-698-0334 fax: 651-699-2303

Your home.
Your style.
Take pride.

Mid-century, modern and made-in-Minnesota furniture and decor at its best. Showcasing local artisans and artists. Proudly serving our community since 2012.

MidModMen+friends
2401 University Ave. West
St. Paul, MN 55114
612.234.1201
MidModMen.com

Photo of painting El by CL Martin

MCAD Annual Auction Celebrates 10th Year

BY GABRIELLE REEDER

MCAD, or the Minnesota College of Art, will host its tenth annual auction on May 19, 2023. Each year, MCAD gathers donated artwork from visiting artists as well as local professionals to contribute to the scholarship foundation.

Auction

The auction sells the donated artwork to raise funds for their scholarship pool. Around 97% of MCAD students receive aid, according to Annie Gillette Cleveland, the Vice President of Communications and Marketing Strategy at MCAD.

Guests that attend the auction peruse the art and select items from paintings, photographs, ceramics, and sculptures to add to their home art collection. Attendees know that each dollar spent goes toward helping an aspiring artist receive a college education and a promising future. Since so many students lean on financial aid to attend MCAD, the event is a necessity to keep the classrooms accessible and thriving.

"People from underrepresented and oppressed communities who would normally be trapped in them due to systemic racism and classism can experience a place where their creativity, their trauma, and their stories are listened to and valued. They in turn give back to the art community and the community in general what they have learned: that art is a conduit for communication and critical thinking. It should be for everyone. It generates tools for life," MCAD alum and artist, Cl Martin, told Lavender Magazine.

Working Artist: Cl Martin

Cl Martin is a Minnesota-based artist who graduated from MCAD in 2005 with a BFA in painting. The institution invited her back to assist with this year's fundraiser. According to Martin, she jumped at the opportunity to come back to her alma mater to support the scholarship efforts.

"I'm an artist. A working artist. I've been a working artist since right after I graduated from MCAD. I've always been drawing since I can remember," Martin said. "It's incorporated into my identity. Turning emotion into some kind of visual representation helps me process trauma, stress and interpret the world as well as my place in it."

The ability to help with the auction serves as a full circle moment for Martin.

In addition to helping with the upcoming auction, Martin received a prestigious grant to further her artistic process. The MN State Arts Board and the National Endowment for The Arts awarded her The Artist Initiative Grant.

"That was the first time I had written an organization with the intention of creating a body of work and then presenting it. Having gotten the grant meant that I communicated successfully and that other people believed in my ideas. This helped my confidence tremendously as an artist just starting out. This kind of process – writing grant proposals, putting words to your ideas, being skilled at communicating and telling a story, and asking people to fund it can be a lot of what a working artist does," she said.

Cl Martin also displays renowned artwork in international exhibits and private showings in London, Italy, Ireland, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Los Angeles, and New York.

Advice to Artists

Cl Martin offered some advice to aspiring artists and those thinking about pursuing an artistic degree. "Most artists don't make enough money to pursue their work full-time. I certainly don't and likely never will and that's OK. It is incredibly rare. Time might be more precious but in a way, it's liberating because constraints enable creativity to thrive. One can also price their work lower if one isn't relying solely on art sales and grants for income. That way, the art is more accessible and affordable to more people," Martin stated.

Upcoming Shows

This year, the auction occurs at MCAD Main Gallery, 2501 Stevens Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404 on May 19 with a VIP Preview Reception starting at 6:00 p.m. and the auction beginning at 7:00–9:30 p.m.

Tickets to the event start at $150 and all earnings fuel the MCAD Scholarship Fund. Artwork ranges from $480 to $9,600.

Martin also shared her upcoming show on May 25 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. with artist Aidan Dillon at the Paul Whitney Larson Art Gallery called "Infrastructure of Identity"

For more information and tickets to the auction, visit mcad.edu/artauction. For more information on Cl Martin visit www://clmartinart.com ∎

Party with Purpose. Support Scholarships.

An art-filled event benefiting students in need.

Tickets Now on Sale
mcad.edu/artauction

MCAD

Sponsored by:

BEST BUY

faegre drinker

Bank of America
Cuningham Group
KNOCK, inc.
Larkin Hoffman

Alerus
The Creative Partners Group
Fox Rothschild LLP
InUnison Design
JE Dunn
PKA. Architecture
Streeter Custom Builders
Verist

Celebrating "Queerness" at Art-A-Whirl

BY SUSAN SWAVELY

Get ready, Minneapolis: Art-A-Whirl is back! Whether you've heard of it before and are already planning your visit, or this is your first encounter, you don't want to miss this incredible exhibition of local art!

Anna Becker, Executive Director of Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, or NEMAA, says, "Art-A-Whirl is the largest open studio tour in the nation, and it happens in Northeast Minneapolis… Over 1,000 artists and galleries participate in Art-A-Whirl each year across almost 70 sites, including studio buildings, galleries, businesses, and breweries." This year, Art-A-Whirl is even bigger than ever before. According to Becker, Art-A-Whirl grows every year, "The first year, artists were pleasantly surprised that a few hundred people showed up to their spaces. Last year we estimate between 80,000—100,000 people came to Art-A-Whirl." And the best part? Art-A-Whirl is free and open to the public!

Art-A-Whirl celebrates all kinds of art and artists, including many openly queer artists. Andrea From (they/them) is a great example of one of the many queer artists you can meet this year. From says, "I run Andrea Alice, Artist out of my home studio in South Minneapolis, where I'm often assisted by a spirited two-year-old and a sweet kitty named Waffle. I work mostly in watercolor and marker, and my flare for illustration heavily informs my work. I've been drawing prolifically since I could hold a pencil, and I never stopped having imaginary friends. Now I just call them original characters, and I draw comics about them." Their beautiful, colorful art expresses so much joy and brightness. They say, "I came out when my little one was nine months old… It was a euphoric time, but also a lonely one… I started making art about my newfound identity, the explosive joy of finally knowing myself, and the questions I still had."

From's illustrations depict colorful characters and animals, often with the incorporation of the colors of different pride flags. Finding a home in the queer community has been a profound experience for From, both with art and in their life. They say, "Coming home to the queer community is the deepest sense of belonging I have ever felt. And it is time we started to educate the world about queer belonging, queer hope, and queer joy." Pop in and check out their table at Art-A-Whirl. They will be tabling with "[their] incredible friend and colleague, Raven Mae of Whirlywind Artworks. You can catch us on the second floor of Grain Belt Bottling House. We love chatting with art enthusiasts, and we have everything from original paintings to cards and stickers, to jewelry by Raven." Don't miss out!

Another amazing artist gracing Art-A-Whirl with his presence is Olly Gibbs (he/him). Olly is, in his own words, "a trans-masculine full-time fiber artist & graphic designer… My husband, Keaton, and I share our work through our collaborative small art business Curlworks! [We] currently design and sell stationary, apparel, and handmade plush, with a focus on nature & queer representation." Gibbs and his husband began participating as Art-A-Whirl Artists recently, in 2021, but they've been frequent visitors in past years. He adds, "This year will be our very first time participating with our new studio in the Q.arma Building (Studio 200) and I can't wait to share our new space with everyone." They're both very excited to get to showcase some of their amazing art this year. Gibbs says, "Though my work is not always overtly queer (though it often is!), and there is definitely more to me as a person than my queerness, recently I've been trying to create more positive and affirming work for the trans community to hopefully help balance out all of the not-so-positive messages we're usually blasted with."

Photos by Andrea From

With so much negativity in the news and so many anti-trans/queer movements, finding a space for trans and queer joy is so important. Gibbs is a perfect example of promoting trans joy and creativity. He says, "We have so much new work to share with lots of goodies for sale, my husband will be bringing his elusive paintings, it'll be really fun." He also includes, "Our studio mate Jill Kittock is also VERY cool and an extremely talented artist and a wicked baker so if you aren't yet convinced to come say hi during Art-A-Whirl, I hope her baked goods will entice you!"

Alicia De La Cruz (she/her) is another brilliant artist participating in Art-A-Whirl this year. She introduces herself: "Boozhoo (hello)! … I'm a two spirit Ojibwe artist hailing from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe here in Minnesota! I currently live in the beautiful art district of N.E Min-

Continued on page 24

CLOUTIER LAW OFFICES P.A.
Elizabeth Cloutier
PFLAG Member
CLOUTIER LAW OFFICES P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
FAMILY/DIVORCE/CUSTODY
DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS/DISSOLUTION
PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS
SPERM/EGG DONOR AGREEMENTS
SURROGACY
GAY MARRIAGE ADVICE
SECOND/STEP PARENT ADOPTION
INJURIES/AUTO ACCIDENTS
PROBATE
WILLS & TRUSTS
BUSINESS LAW
Convenient Downtown Skyway Connected Offices
612.332.5100
Free Initial Consultation
Suite 1600 Medical Arts Building, 825 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55402
OVER 25 YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE
WWW.CLOUTIER-LAW.COM

LAVENDER
LAVENDER
Lavender Magazine is online and on the issuu app!
Read us on issuu

Jason Brueske
Your Family Real Estate Professional
Edina Realty
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate
612-237-7201
JasonBrueske@EdinaRealty.com
www.JasonBrueske.EdinaRealty.com
Licensed in MN and WI

LICENSE # 1095
Your Sign of Satisfaction
ROELOFS
REMODELING & RENOVATION
952-512-0110 | roelofsremodeling.com
Building fine homes for over 50 years . . . one room at a time.

NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS ARTS ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS
ART-A-WHIRL®
2023
MAY 19 - 21
nemaa.org/art-a-whirl
Art by Genessis Lopez

2 BIG PRIDE EVENTS
1 FABULOUS NIGHT

Join us for our *BIGGEST* and best Pride Month kickoff ever!

SUMMER of PRIDE™ + LAVENDER'S SCORE @ Pride

Presented by MALL OF AMERICA

JUNE 1, 2023 • 5:30-8:00PM

GRANADA THEATER

Uptown Minneapolis' Food + Music + Event Hotspot
3022 Hennepin Ave. • Minneapolis
granadampls.com

Host Partners: Ma'am Social Club, Quorum and The Uptown Association

Pick up your copy of ***Lavender's 2023 Pride Edition***, America's largest Pride issue.

Visit with representatives from Twin Cities Pride and find out all the fantastic events they have planned for this Pride Month.

Visit with representatives from local LGBTQ and allied businesses and organizations.

Visit with representatives from local LGBTQ, college and pro sports teams/leagues.

COME AS YOU ARE • NO DRESS CODE • FREE TO ATTEND • EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Enjoy cash bar and complimentary light hors d'oeuvres

FREE gifts to the first 100 attendees
Register to win great prizes, including gift cards to area businesses and tickets to theater and sporting events.

Plenty of parking available on surrounding streets and across from Granada Theater at 7 Points Uptown parking ramp.

LavenderMagazine.com/firstthursday

ALSO SPONSORED BY

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

steven scott

RUSH

neapolis." De La Cruz is creates with beads, and her work, "…reflects the contemporary native art style and a touch of old-style Ojibwe art with my own twist. Especially important to me in my work is the preservation of my culture, through both language and art." De La Cruz elaborates, "I enjoy using beadwork, painting, mixed media, ink, and marker in non-traditional ways to showcase my own identity as a native artist and also as a woman of the 21st century. I love the intricacy of beadwork, which inspires me to connect with my ancestors through a beautiful traditional native art form."

De La Cruz recently won the Artist Future Award from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and has a fellowship with the Bell Museum, where her work will "culminate into a project to be shown at the Bell Museum and Mille Lacs Indian Museum." De La Cruz's expression of her art is influenced in all ways by her identities as two spirit and Ojibwe. She says, "As someone who is two spirit, it is an honor in my culture to be this. I use the colors of the rainbow VERY often in many of my pieces, and I like to say that rainbow is my favorite color. To practice an art form that is not often practiced and to also be a two spirit artist on top of that, I feel proud to represent Ojibwe Two Spirit peoples."

This is the second year De La Cruz will be participating; she says, "I always get comments about how unique the art I bring is, and how it's the first time for some people to ever see beadwork in person. It's always amazing to both show my art and also educate a little about my culture and to be THANKED for bringing my art to art a whirl is something so special to me."

Don't miss out on Art-A-Whirl, the art event of the season!

Art-A-Whirl

Friday, May 19th – 5:00-10:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 20th – Noon-8:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 21st – Noon-5:00 p.m.
www.nemaa.org/art-a-whirl

There's No Party Like A *Lavender* Party!

BY LINDA RAINES

Pride…just the word conjures up images of rainbows, confetti, and balloons, floats and drag queens and music and dancing. Parades. Happiness. Fun. Celebrating the diversity of our community with laughter and joy and the knowledge that this is our month to show the world who we are and how we fit into every aspect of society.

This year, the annual party that hails the start of the Twin Cities' Pride season is going to be even bigger and better than ever as *Lavender* combines its iconic Summer of Pride Kickoff Party and sports-themed Score @ Pride into one giant celebration!

Lavender's First Thursday event began in February of 2008 with an attendance of a mere 20—30 people. It quickly grew in both size and popularity, soon boasting of attendance of well over 150 attendees each month. The June First Thursday always coincided with the June Summer of Pride Kickoff Party which easily draws crowds of over 500 as a way of unveiling *Lavender*'s Pride issue and sashaying into the Pride season with style.

Score began some years later as a way of bringing together LGBTQ athletes and fans for a monthly, sports-centric happy hour, and eventually evolved into the once-per-year Score @ Pride in 2018 as one of the signature events of *Lavender*'s annual Summer of Pride slate of celebrations, held on the Thursday before the Twin Cities Pride Festival.

It gave the community a chance to see all of the options they had to participate in the sports of their choice with like-minded individuals in the LGBTQ community, with teams that were welcoming and inclusive in every way. It also gave the local professional teams, such as the Lynx, the Vikings, the Twins and the Wild a chance to show our community that they supported us and welcomed us with their Pride-themed swag and the various Pride nights that they sponsored throughout the summer.

Both events drew, and continue to draw, enthusiastic and loyal crowds, folks who always made room on their calendars for *Lavender*'s events, and both events were highly anticipated by *Lavender* readers as both a way to kick off the summer and a way to kick off Pride weekend in the Twin Cities.

This year's super-sized event is slated to be held on June 1 at the Granada Theater—once an iconic theater borne of the silent film era and now transformed into a one-of-a-kind event venue along Hennepin Avenue in the fantastic Uptown neighborhood. The revitalized 1927 Churrigueresque theater will provide a unique space for attendees to enjoy a venue unlike any that *Lavender* has held the Summer of Pride events before. Attendees will be able to register for great prizes at the *Lavender* welcome table in the Uptown Lobby Bar and Restaurant before stepping into the theater itself which boasts a stunning curved midnight-blue ceiling soaring overhead to emulate a star-strewn night sky to enjoy a memorable and fun-filled evening.

With its convenient location to downtown as well as surrounding suburbs, the Granada Theater also offers ample parking opportunities at the Seven Points Parking Ramp (formerly the Calhoun Square ramp), metered street parking and other nearby ramps, ensuring attendees a number of ways of easily getting to Lavender's Summer of Pride Kickoff Party and Score @ Pride.

Be prepared to enjoy delicious complimentary appetizers, a cash bar, chances to register to win great prizes and pick up fun swag and promotions, and to peruse tables from a dazzling array of tables staffed by representatives from local LGBTQ nonprofits, LGBTQ sports teams and organizations, and Minnesota's professional sports teams. ▮

Lavender's Summer of Pride and Score @ Pride
June 1 • 5:30 – 8:00 PM
Granada Theater, 3022 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Photos courtesy of Renewal by Andersen

Window Shopping
Renewal by Andersen Takes The Pain Out Of Pane Shopping

BY TERRANCE GRIEP

It might start subtly. It might start with a wooden stile grinding against a wooden casing as a wooden sash rises. It might start with a ghost-like chill inspired by passage, or a ghost-like fog benighting the palisade–the colder and the wetter the outside, the bigger the haunting.

It might start even more subtly than that. It might start with the mildly-frustrated perception of not-light or not-breeze. It might start with a vague longing for the beauty, nearby but invisible, eclipsed by unforgiving drywall and studded lumber.

It might start with something not just subtle, but abstract. It might start with a desire to increase value, to boost the curb appeal of the investment which sprawls all around.

Whether it's a warping of frames or a leaky pane or a failed seal or claustrophobic tendencies or abject voyeurism or broad beamed love-it-or-list-it-ness–however it starts, each of these considerations might serve as the impetus for the acquisition of new windows, and your pals at *Lavender Magazine* can offer a recommendation.

Founded in 1995, Renewal by Andersen of the Greater Twin Cities is, according it its website, "proud to serve the window, patio door, and entry door needs from the metro area to Saint Cloud and Brainerd." Renewal by Andersen is the full-service window replacement division of Andersen Corporation, an international window and door manufacturing company whose roots stretch back to the Roosevelt Administration…the *Theodore* Roosevelt Administration, that is. Founded by Hans Jacob Andersen (no relation to Hans Christian), Andersen Corporation currently employs more than 13,000 people at more than thirty manufacturing facilities, logistical centers, and company-owned retail locations.

"Whether you're in your starter home or your forever home, we have solutions to preserve and improve your house and its resale potential," Renewal by Andersen's web page continues. "Our hassle-free Signature Service process also creates peace of mind in the quality of your new windows, freeing you up to work on the home improvement projects most important to you."

The Signature Service begins with a free assessment wherein design consultants meet the prospective client, offering suggestions but also indulging in the lost of art of Listening, a back-and-forth, to-and-fro ex-

Continued on page 28

The POOL Store

Pool Heaters
Pool & Spa Chemicals
Pool & Spa Accessories
Games, Floats, & Toys

Pool Pumps & Filters
Pool Ladders
Automatic Vacuums
Electic Pool Vacuums

doughboy

Mon - Fri: 9am - 7pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: 11am -4pm

Whether you want an above ground pool or an inground look, Doughboy has the answer. Our pool's unparalleled strength and quality are unmatched in the industry.

It has always been our goal to give our consumers peace of mind about the longevity, maintenance, and safety of a Doughboy pool.

10100 Hwy 65 NE Blaine, MN 55434

(763) 786-9563

Solaris Companies
The Twin Cities' Finest Contractor

ASK US ABOUT INSTALLING
HEATED GUTTER GUARDS!

Installs onto existing gutter to keep out debris during the summer and melt ice and snow during the winter.

Self-Regulating Heat Cable

Providing home construction and exterior renovation needs, including: **roofing, siding, windows, gutters, solar panel installations,** and **interior** & **exterior home remodels.**

(612) 402-1173 | erik@solariscos.com | www.solariscos.com

MIDTOWN
ANTIQUE MALL

301 SOUTH MAIN STREET
STILLWATER, MN 55082
651-430-0808
MIDTOWNANTIQUES.COM

3 FLOORS
Open 7 days a week
Mon-Thur 10-5 • Fri-Sat 10-7 • Sun 11-6

We do good work for nice people!
RTR TEAMS
★ROOFING★
★WINDOWS★
★SIDING★
★PRE-PLAN SPECIALISTS★
RENDA THE ROOFER
5 Star ★★★★★
World Class Service! BC#759085
RTR911.com
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Our mission is to ... "Be of Service"

Lifetime No Crack Guarantee.
HAGE
CONCRETE WORKS
SINCE 1930
612-861-4243
HageConcrete.com

change of ideas meant to improve the overall quality of the house.

The most obvious consideration, where windows are concerned is the lookee-thru part, scientifically known as *Clearcarbonis Minimus* and known within the trade as, ahem, "glass." Thanks to Minnesota's theater of seasons, a buyer must consider how a window's glass will respond to heat and its lack, as well as visible light transmittance and an ozone-layer-like ultraviolet light protection to help reduce fading.

As the Renewal by Andersen web page puts it, "With customers across the nation and a glass solution for every climate, our windows take advantage of the newest technologies to help lower energy costs and keep your family comfortable."

Popular replacement window styles include awning windows ("easy to open, great for hard-to-reach areas"), bay windows ("make any room a masterpiece"), casement windows ("our most energy-efficient, ventilating window style"), double-hung windows ("a traditional look with a wide range of design options"), picture and combination windows ("the ideal solution for showcasing a beautiful view"), sliding windows ("maximize your view"), and specialty windows ("styles include round, arch, circle, circle top, pentagon, arched, and more").

These windows are framed in a proper proprietary product that Andersen has designed, developed, and implemented, a product called Fibrex® material. Although it might sound like the newest member of a mutant super-hero group, Fibrex material is actually a composite material of thermoplastic polymer and wood fiber "It's the best material for our application." In other words, Fibrex material offers the elegance, strength, and stability of wood (which can be difficult to maintain), with the low-maintenance features of vinyl (which can lack elegance, strength, and stability).

That's no idle boast: after rigorous scientific testing, Fibrex material has proven resistant to cold, corrosion, decay, heat*,

Continued on page 30

Jewelry by Johan
JEWELRY RE-IMAGINED

Handcrafted in Minnesota with unique materials, including authentic meteorite. Schedule a free online video consultation today to start designing your dream rings!
651.321.9267
www.jewelrybyjohan.com

jewelry
home
chocolate
max's
SARAH GRAHAM
METALSMITHING
Trunk Show & Personal Appearance
May 12 & 13
Shops at Excelsior & Grand | 3826 Grand Way | St. Louis Park | 952.922.8364
www.StyleByMax.com

THE PROM CLOSING JUNE 10
FINAL PRIDE NIGHT
MAY 18
the PROM
Use Promo Code:
PRIDEPROM
Good only on Pride Night at Chanhassen:
May 18
Get $25 off Dinner & Show!
Not available on previously purchased tickets, other restrictions may apply.
Monty Hays, Maya Richardson
entertaining you!
Chanhassen
DINNER THEATRES
952.934.1525
ChanhassenDT.com

and generally-inclement weather. It enjoys a unique durability, as well as a singular rigidity. Renewal by Andersen windows made with Fibrex material come in various colors, foregoing the many trials and tribulations to which pane-painting is heir. These features combined offer maximum glass area because, y'know, a window with a minimum glass area is either a wall or a wind.

Once all of that theory is settled, practice asserts itself as project technicians "ensure accuracy and answer any last time minute questions before sending in the order for your fully customized windows." That is to say, the windows are actually dovetailed into the human nest by a crew of master installers. Renewal by Andersen is rare in that it both manufactures windows and installs them.

But the completion of the window placement isn't the end of the buyer/seller relationship; rather, it's the beginning. As promised on the Renewal by Andersen web page, "A robust limited warranty is backed by a commitment to making sure your windows function as expected." The warranty includes the window, of course…but also the installation.

Whether it's the warping of frames or a leaky pane or a failed seal or claustrophobic tendencies or abject voyeurism or broad beamed love-it-or-list-it-ness that creates the need for a new windows, the window widows of the world can rely on Renewal By Andersen. As they invite on their website, "Schedule a free in-home window consultation with our window design experts or visit one of our showrooms." ▮

Renewal by Andersen
www.renewalbyandersen.com
"Fibrex" is a registered trademark of Andersen Corporation.

Move right in or re-imagine this breathtaking, design forward Golden Valley home. Spectacular yard, primary bedroom suite unlike anything you have ever seen. This home is MAGNIFICENT!

$549,000

COLDWELL BANKER

Ellyn Wolfenson
3303 Excelsior Blvd.
Suite #100
612.644.3033
Ejwolfenson@cbburnet.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Serving you for over 100 years!

SODERLIN
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR

SINCE 1914

612-721-4080

Boilers • Furnace • A/C
Water Heaters • Toilet • Faucets

Serving the entire Twin Cities Area.
Emergency Service Available.

WWW.SODERLIN.COM

Licensed, Bonded & Insured. LICENSE #58002PM & 3272MB

SODERLIN 100 YEARS 1914 - 2014

INCLINE EXTERIORS

NEXT LEVEL HOME EXTERIORS!

roofing | siding | gutters | windows | single and multifamily

Free Estimates

CALL (952) 471-9065
www.InclineExteriors.com
Incline Exteriors, 143 Oak Street Excelsior, MN 55331
License # BC168831

LET'S EXPLORE OUR CITY'S STORY. AGAIN.

VISIT HENNEPIN AVE UMC
511 GROVELAND AVE, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403

MAY 13-14

RETHOS
DOORS OPEN MINNEAPOLIS
PRESENTED BY
COMCAST

New Spaces Is an Innovative Take on Home Remodels (Just in Time for Spring!)

BY AURORA SMITH

Have you ever looked around your kitchen, bathroom, or perhaps your entire home and wished you could be on one of those TV shows? You know, the ones where they swoop in and like magic — poof! Your house is remodeled.

Continued on page 34

NEW SPACES

DESIGN-BUILD-REMODEL

952-898-5300 INFO@NEWSPACES.COM

COMPLEMENTARY CONSULTATION

Well New Spaces doesn't work *quite* like magic, but they are an innovative company that works unlike any other remodeling company in the Twin Cities area.

Where It Began

Doug and Carol Nelson founded the company in 1980. Today, the family tradition continues with the second generation of Nelsons running New Spaces — Shawn Nelson, Doug and Carol's son, is President.

That makes New Spaces the only father/son team that has both been president of the Builder's Association of Twin Cities. And their unique way of doing things doesn't stop there.

Where It Is Now

New Spaces is a small, tight-knit company of 20 direct employees. What makes them stand out in their field is all their production and design team are in-house.

"We have lead carpenters that have spent over 32 years with us. That's fairly rare in our industry," says Bjorn Freudenthal, West Metro Home Advisor and Vice President of Business Development for New Spaces.

That means no sub-contractors and way less chance of a vision for a home getting sidetracked or off-plan. Plus, it means the designers, contractors, and anyone else with New Spaces who has a hand in your dream home remodel all know each other and work well together. No need to swap out sub-contracted teams and start from scratch.

"Our team is unmatched in the industry," says Jamie Tjornehoj, Marketing Communications Manager and CRM/Data Specialist for New Spaces. "We have that family feel and respect for one another. Everyone takes a personal responsibility for the success of the company."

This all results in a smooth and streamlined design process they're delighted to provide to their clients.

The Design Process

Speaking of the design process, New Spaces offers their services in three easy steps.

Step 1: Virtual or In-Person Consultation

This step is where they get to know you and your family. You'll fill out a worksheet with your "needs, wants, and wishes." Needs are must-haves, wants are nice-to-haves, and the wishes are the dreams.

They review all the project parameters and realistic investment ranges with every client so you can make a fully informed decision.

Step 2: Design

Once they've established your goals and dreams with your remodel, their design team gets to work. They create three unique design options to fit your lifestyle and goals.

Step 3: Build

Once you approve the design, New Spaces gets to work. They make sure to keep you apprised of everything that's happening and when. Plus, your lead carpenter is your point person throughout the build, and your designer and production manager are just a call away should you need anything.

Before you know it, you'll be living in your, well, new space and loving it!

What Truly Sets New Spaces Apart

If all that sounded like a normal remodeling or contractor service, there's one key difference that truly sets New Spaces apart from the competition.

"We do all the work up front. That's the secret sauce. We do all the heavy lifting prior to the construction contract," says Bjorn.

What does that mean?

It means everything gets designed and specified, selected, and priced — all prior to the construction contract.

With other companies, 95% of the remodeling world gets to the contract quickly and then material selections are finalized after. When you have hundreds of decisions to make through a remodel and most of them are happening after the contract, there might be a huge difference in cost from contract to final result.

But not New Spaces.

Instead, they start with a design agreement that moves into the construction contract with a high degree of specificity. So, you start with the consultation, a potential design, any revisions, a showroom visit to confirm your choices, and only then do you get to the construction contract.

That means fewer potentially costly surprises for clients once the work gets underway.

"Our clients appreciate this layer of transparency in our process. It's one of our differentiating factors that really sets us apart," says Jamie.

Photos by Brian Shultz, Shultz Photo & Design

Award-Winning Remodeling

In addition to their unique approach to the remodeling industry, New Spaces is an award-winning company. Their latest award among many is the 2023 Regional CotY Winner for Entire House Under $250,000.

Continued on page 36

KURSIV
WOMAN-OWNED
MINNESOTA-GROWN
ORGANIC CANNABIS
• THC/CBD
• GUMMIES
• TINCTURE OIL
• HEALING BALM
• LOTION
Visit our booth at PRIDE!
WWW.KURSIVORGANICS.COM

THE REMODELER YOU CAN TRUST
Additions & Dormers / Kitchens & Bathrooms / Custom Cabinetry
Whole House Renovation / Porches & Sun-Rooms / Finished Basements
4330 Nicollect Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.821.1100 / 651.690.3442 MN LIC #BC378021
www.houseliftinc.com
House Lift
REMODELER

explore MINNESOTA
Visit Greater ST. CLOUD

THAT FEELING WHEN
THE VIBE IS MAGICAL
Munsinger and Clemens Botanical Gardens
VISITSTCLOUD.COM

This project involved taking a 1950s rambler-style home and reconfiguring it through a complete main floor transformation and space plan re-configuration. The location is beautiful; the home is snuggled up to Shady Oak Lake in Minnetonka.

The family had dreams of having a better suited home to accompany family living and entertaining.

The remodel included:

- Adding a primary bathroom to create a complete owners suite,
- Mudroom functionality
- Introducing a second bathroom to serve as the kids'/guest bathroom on the main level (without having to expand outside of the existing footprint of the home!)
- Introducing an open-concept kitchen with powerful sight-lines that now run front-to-back of their house (These changes added a lot of natural light by removing the bearing wall intersecting the kitchen and the dining room)
- Replacing EE Windows and adding an exterior patio door out to the deck area off the main level
- Even removing a massive masonry fireplace and bearing wall between the kitchen and family room, ultimately creating a much better space plan and pattern of circulation

"Our design team really went above and beyond on this remodel," says Jamie. "It continues to be highly praised by our Twin Cities community."

Client Raves

Clients have nothing but positive things to say about New Spaces.

Jamie Tjornehoj (L) and Bjorn Fruedenthal (R) of New Spaces

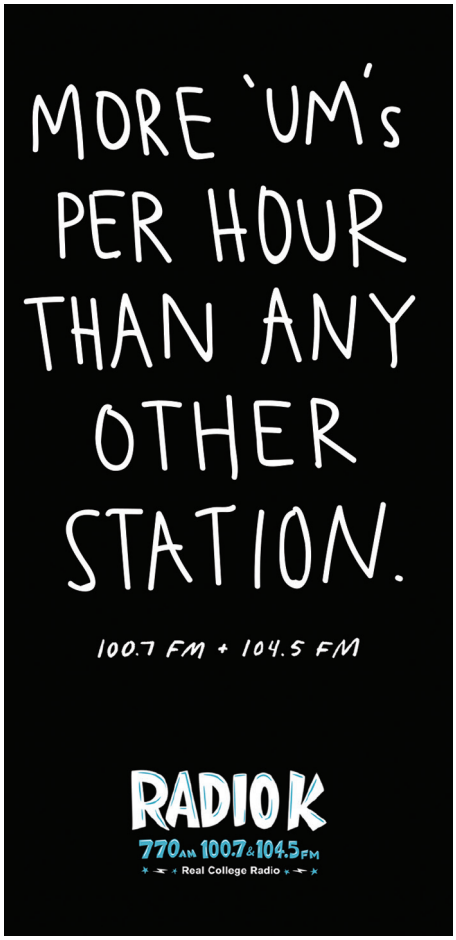
Vince and Kate in Minneapolis say, "Quality workmanship, personal touch, attentive care, and willingness to explore options together."

"Just a great team of people to work with. I highly recommend New Spaces," says Amy from Minnetonka.

"When I walked into the showroom, it was a show-stopper," says Debbie. "Then having New Spaces with their design team made my life so much easier. They made sure the work was done on time… and did the job right."

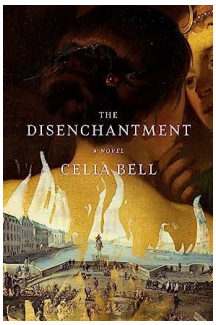
Learn More

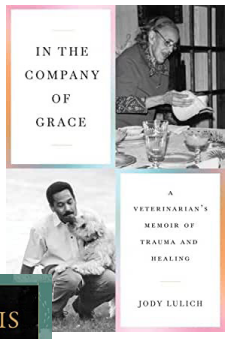
If you want to learn more about their projects, you can not only view their website but also check out their Happy Hour Home Tours where once per month they walk you through their projects virtually. ∎

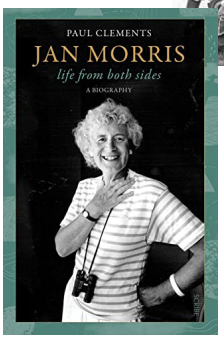


Books

BY E.B BOATNER







The Disenchantment

Was the past as dystopian as any imagined future? Bell blends a well-researched knowledge of the Sun King's plot and scandal-ridden era to frame this forbidden romance between two French noblewomen seeking to circumvent the restrictive web of court protocol and sexual prohibitions. Many of the characters actually trod the Paris cobblestones in 1667, the setting of this tale, and the witch-hunt for poisoners existed. Indefatigable Lieutenant General de la Reynie, arrested noblewomen; de Poulaillon and de Léféron suffered; prison, torture, were liberally applied. So, when Baroness Marie Catherine's abusive husband is murdered, and her lover, Victoire, Mademoiselle de Conti, a cross-dressing iconoclast was on the scene, the stakes are high, escape the only choice. How they play their cards, what they choose, will amaze.

In the Company of Grace: A Veterinarian's Memoir of Trauma and Healing

Jody Lulich was one of several veterinarians to be honored that evening. He held a paper; one side the more expected, praising a mentor who helped guide his career, the other the tangled story leading to tonight. Reality, but how would that be received? Stepping to the podium, he chose. The son of a white father and black mother, their union in turmoil. At nine, witnessing his mother's suicide, enduring his father's rejection. Later, still searching, attending Tuskegee University in Alabama, he boarded with the elderly Grace, a compassionate Black woman who essentially adopted him, extending that vital love and compassion. Lulich pursued the long road back to professor of veterinary clinical services, found a love of his own. Grace would have applauded his choice.

Jan Morris: Life from Both Sides

Morris, whose emotional memoir, *Conundrum*, concerned her transition from James to Jan in 1972, authored 50-plus other books–from the 3-vol *Pax Britannica*, to *Venice*, plus scads of evocative articles world-wide for publications from the *Times* of London to *Rolling Stone*. Sent by the *Times* to Kathmandu for Hillary and Tenzing's 1953 Everest attempt, non-climber Morris, 26, ascended to 22,000 feet, scoring news sent back by Sherpa runners; then his final, "Snow conditions bad stop advanced base abandoned yesterday stop awaiting improvement" Decoded, it heralded the first successful summiting. The *Times* scoop headlined the morning of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. Married, five children, divorced at her transition, remarried, the headstone celebrates, "Here are two friends, Jan and Elizabeth Morris, At the end of one life." ▮

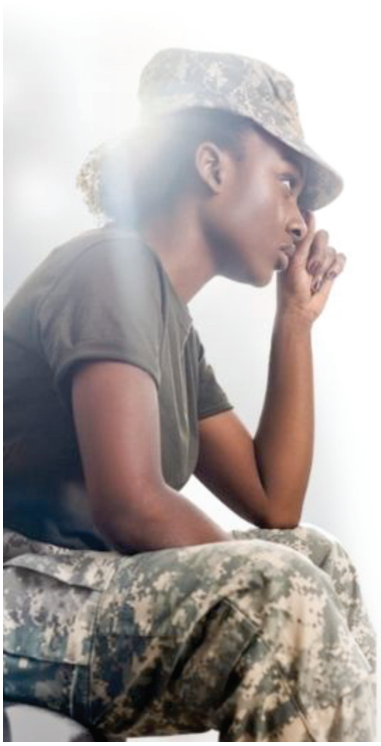
Lavender Media is seeking to add a Twin Cities-based full time Account Executive to our sales team. We are looking for an outgoing, organized, self-driven & motivated professional with excellent phone, writing and presentation skills. Candidates should enjoy working directly with clients who are interested in growing their business through Lavender advertising and event sponsorships. Candidates must be local.

Includes base pay + commission and an employee benefits package that includes group health, dental, life insurance and LTD.

Applicants should have experience with Mac software environment, Excel, Word, social media platforms & database software such as Filemaker Pro. They should exhibit an elevated level of organization, attention to detail, the ability to work as part of a team, effective communication, self direction, enjoys working with new people and has a natural drive to grow.

Please send your cover letter and resume to Stephen Rocheford, President & CEO.
stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

No one who served deserves to be homeless.



- Housing
- Employment
- Legal

MACV
Ending Veteran Homelessness

www.mac-v.org

1-833-222-6228

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community Connection brings visibility to local LGBTQ-friendly non-profit organizations.
To reserve your listing in Community Connection, email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

Foster Adopt Minnesota
Finding families and providing information, education, and support to Minnesota Adoptive, Foster and Kinship communities.
2446 University Ave. W., Ste. 104
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 861-7115, (866) 303-6276
info@fosteradoptmn.org
www.fosteradoptmn.org

ANIMAL RESCUE

Second Chance Animal Rescue
Dedicated to rescuing, fostering, caring for, and adopting out dogs and cats into forever homes.
P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Quorum
Minnesota's LGBTQ+ and Allied Chamber of Commerce working to build, connect, and strengthen for a diverse business community.
2446 University Ave. W., Ste 112
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 460-8153
www.twincitiesquorum.com

CASINOS

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
Nonstop gaming excitement with slots, blackjack, bingo and more plus distinctive bars and restaurants.
2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake, MN 55372
(800) 262-7799
www.mysticlake.com

EVENT VENUES

Landmark Center
A classic venue, with a grand cortile and beautiful courtrooms, accommodates celebrations of all sizes.
75 W. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 292-3228
www.landmarkcenter.org

GRANTMAKERS/FUNDERS

PFund Foundation
PFund is the LGBTQ+ community foundation that provides grants to students and grants to non-profits.
PO Box 3640
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-870-1806
www.pfundfoundation.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Aliveness Project
Community Center for individuals living with HIV/AIDS – on-site meals, food shelf, and supportive service.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55102
(612) 824-LIFE (5433)
www.aliveness.org

Family Tree Clinic
We're a sliding fee sexual health clinic and education center, now in Minneapolis.
1919 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis MN 55403
(612) 473-0800
www.familytreeclinic.org

NAMI Minnesota
(National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

Rainbow Health Minnesota
Meeting the health needs of LGBTQ+ people and those living with HIV with holistic service.
2700 Territorial Rd. W.
St. Paul, MN 55114
General: (612) 341-2060
MN AIDSLine: (612) 373-2437
www.rainbowhealth.org

Red Door Clinic
Sexual health care for all people. Get confidential tests & treatment in a safe, caring setting.
525 Portland Ave., 4th Fl.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 543-5555
reddoor@hennepin.us
www.reddoorclinic.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Radio K
Radio K is the award-winning student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota.
330 21st. Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

MORTGAGE

Nonprofit Mortgage Company
Purchase, refinance, and home equity loans. I'll help you with every step of the process. NMLS 2259195 1608823. An Equal Housing Opportunity
Betsy Phillips @ 651-274-9367
www.LoansbyBetsy.com

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society
Create your own adventure at MNHS historic sites and museums around Minnesota.
mnhs.org

The Bakken Museum
Exhibits and programs to inspire a passion for innovation through science, technology, and the humanities.
3537 Zenith Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(612) 926-3878
www.thebakken.org

Walker Art Center
Showcasing the fresh, innovative art of today and tomorrow through exhibitions, performances, and film screenings.
725 Vineland Pl.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 375-7600
www.walkerart.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Chanhassen Dinner Theaters
The nation's largest professional dinner theater and Minnesota's own entertainment destination.
501 W. 78th St.
Chanhassen, MN 55317
(952) 934-1525
www.ChanhassenDT.com

Guthrie Theater
Open to the public year-round, the Guthrie produces classic and contemporary plays on three stages.
818 S. 2nd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage
Theater with character. Comedies, musicals, & dramas in a professional, intimate setting where all are welcomed.
420 E. Main St.
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 422-1838
info@lyricarts.org
www.lyricarts.org

Minnesota Opera
World-class opera draws you into a synthesis of beauty; breathtaking music, stunning costumes & extraordinary sets. Performances at the Ordway Music Theater - 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102
(612) 333-6669
www.mnopera.org

Minnesota Orchestra
Led by Music Director Designate Thomas Søndergård, the Minnesota Orchestra, one of America's leading symphony orchestras.
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 371-5656, (800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Leading performing arts center with two stages presenting Broadway musicals, concerts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.
345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 224-4222
info@ordway.org
www.ordway.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
An award-winning chorus building community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!
1430 W. 28th St., Ste. B
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Everyone is welcome at Hennepin Church! Vibrant Worship. Authentic Community. Bold Outreach.
511 Groveland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 871-5303
www.hennepinchurch.org

Plymouth Congregational Church
Many Hearts, One Song; Many Hands, One Church. Find us on Facebook and Twitter.
1900 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
An inclusive and affirming community transforming lives through God's love.
519 Oak Grove St.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church
An open and affirming congregation, welcoming persons of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and identities.
1200 Marquette Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 332-3421
www.westminstermpls.org

SENIOR LIVING

Friends & Co
Fostering meaningful connections for older adults for 50+ years. Offering quick drop-in chat line, phone & visiting companionship services.
2550 University Ave. W., Ste. 260-S
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 721-1400
www.friendsco.org

Senior Community Services
Providing non-medical services that meet the changing needs of older adults & support their caregivers.
10201 Wayzata Blvd., Ste. 335
Minnetonka, MN 55305
(952) 541-1019
www.seniorcommunity.org/lav

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lutheran Social Service of MN
Serving all Minnesotans with person-centered services that promote full and abundant lives.
lssmn.org | 612-642-5990 | 800-582-5260
Adoption & Foster Care | welcome@chlss.org
Behavioral Health | 612-879-5320
Host Homes | hosthomes@lssmn.org
Supported Decision-Making | 888-806-6844
Therapeutic Foster Care | 612-751-9395

TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

Discover St. Louis Park
Minnesota's Sweet Spot! Visit us for exceptional dining, attractions, shopping, hotels and event space.
1660 Hwy 100 S., Ste. 501
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
(952) 426-4047
www.DiscoverStLouisPark.com

Visit Greater St. Cloud
Give yourself a break. Visit Greater St. Cloud.
1411 W. St. Germain St., Ste. 104
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 251-4170
info@visitstcloud.com
www.visitstcloud.com

YOUTH

The Bridge for Youth
Emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and resources for youth currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.
1111 W. 22nd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 377-8800 or text (612) 400-7233
www.bridgeforyouth.org

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

GUN SHOPS

MORTGAGE

HOME SERVICES

REAL ESTATE

EMPLOYMENT

Account Executive. Lavender Media is seeking to add a Twin Cities based full time Account Executive to our sales team. We are looking for an outgoing, organized, self-driven & motivated professional with excellent phone, writing and presentation skills. Candidates should enjoy working directly with clients who are interested in growing their business through Lavender advertising and event sponsorships. Candidates must be local. Includes base pay + commission and an employee benefits package that includes group health, dental, life insurance and LTD. Applicants should have experience with Mac software environment, Excel, Word, social media platforms & database software such as Filemaker Pro. They should exhibit an elevated level of organization, attention to detail, the ability to work as part of a team, effective communication, self direction, enjoys working with new people and has a natural drive to grow. Please send your cover letter and resume to stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

OUR VOICES | JAMEZ SITINGS

Saturn

BY JAMEZ L. SMITH

He said I've changed.
I'm not like I used to be.
Changed for the worse.

That's what they always say
When I change
When I grow
When I elevate a level.

It always hurts.

Like when they deny me
Exclude me
Dismiss me

It hurts
So rather than continue to be hurt
I rise
I elevate
I change and grow
Transcend.

And they notice
And complain.
I've changed. ▮

Photos by George Torline

The Original Luxury Crossover

BY RANDY STERN

Lexus means luxury. They set new benchmarks throughout the 1990s with a new flagship sedan, followed by a new interpretation to the personal luxury coupe. The decade culminated with the arrival if an all-new type if luxury vehicle – the crossover.

There had been luxury crossovers and SUVs before the Lexus RX. The big difference is that the RX was built off of a car platform with a front-drive biased format.

Since then, the RX became the most popular model in the Lexus lineup. Some years, it became the best-selling vehicle in its class. In all, it has become the choice of those of us who need the space for passengers, cargo…and our fabulous lives.

This year marks the fifth generation of this breakthrough model. It is all-new from the ground up with a lot of marked changed from the previous four iterations of this popular model.

For one, the design includes a new twist on the Spindle Grille front clip featuring a blunter shape with a fadeaway motif. The rear end also received an update with a full-length LED lightning signature.

These new elements mesh with a roofline that came from the previous generation model. Somehow it all worked. Our tester wore 20-spoke 21-inch alloy wheels and is devoid of a lot of chrome trim to finish off the overall exterior look.

All four doors now have an electronic locking system. Not just from the outside, but also inside as well. The result is a heavier set of doors, that could be a problem for some folks.

Once you step inside you are treated to an all-new interior. In front of the driver is a fully digital instrument cluster and a head up display. Combined, it gives the right information for the driver without even looking down. The steering wheel now features haptic touch for several controls, including the radar cruise control system. The rest of the switches and controls follow Lexus convention.

Dominating the center stack is the new Lexus Interface infotainment system. This new 14-inch touch screen is now the hub for many connected and vehicle controls. Because of this new system, Lexus has eliminated both the trackpad and the Remote Touch mouse-like controller. Mark Levinson supplied 21 speakers of solid sound throughout the cabin.

The front seats are bolstered just fine, providing support for the seatback and cushion. There is plenty of space for four-to-five people inside, along with a solid cargo hold than the previous model. You start off with 29.6 cubic feet behind the rear seats, expandable to 49.2 cubic feet with it folded down.

This is the first RX that will not be powered by a V6. Instead, our 2023 RX tester has the newly standard turbocharged 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine rated at 275 horsepower and 317 pound-feet of torque. It is a solid performer in town and on the highway. An 8-speed automatic transmission is connected to this to this turbocharged engine with all-wheel drive. We experienced a fuel economy average of 23.2 MPG, including a lot of highway driving between the Twin Cities and Chicago.

Even though we drove mostly on highway surfaces, we found the ride quality of the RX felt very solid. It absorbed the roadway with excellent dampening and a much quieter ride overall. Handling was solid with minimal lean and roll on extreme maneuvers.

The steering was very controlled and offered a tighter turning radius. On center field was OK, however it would need the Lane Keeping Assist to ensure that it stays within the lane. Overall, the turning radius was spot on. As for the brakes, there was a solid pedal feel that transmitted down to the wheels. The system yielded solid stops in normal, panic, and winter conditions.

The RX received an upgrade in its driver assistance package to the Lexus Safety System+ 3.0. Features of this upgraded system include a more aggressive Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist and Lane Tracing Assist. We remarked how well the Dynamic Radar Cruise Control works when the lane curves. These features deepen the commitment to ensure you will get to your destination easily.

For all of this, be ready to pay a bit more than before. Our 2023 RX 350 Luxury trim all-wheel drive level tester came with a sticker price of $63,145. RX customers can choose from six trim levels, including two F Sport models. There are three engines available, including a hybrid and a plug-in turbocharged hybrid. Pricing starts from $48,550.

Being an original, the Lexus RX shows its long-term resilience even in a volatile market. In turn, its success is proof that it continues to be a leader in its segment. Especially, among other luxury brands.

However, this new 2023 version of the Lexus RX shows that you could still push the envelope while deepening its market leadership. With new technology, a sharper design, and a new set of drivelines, the Lexus RX continues to be the choice for those of us who want our luxury and our space in one neat package. ∎

UPCOMING
HOME GAMES

MAY 17
7:30

VS HOUSTON
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS • PRESENTED BY SEATGEEK

MAY 27
7:30

VS REAL SALT LAKE
PRESENTED BY XCEL ENERGY

JUN 03
7:30

VS TORONTO
PRIDE• PRESENTED BY CUB

JUN 28
7:30

VS FC KAISERSLAUTERN
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY • PRESENTED BY COORS LIGHT

MLS Season Pass | tv + 1500 ESPN TWIN CITIES 94.5 FM HD-2

Lakeville	Plymouth	Roseville	Woodbury	Duluth	Coon Rapids
952.435.3399	763.551.3544	651.633.7042	651.730.0321	218.723.2302	763.219.1356

schneidermans.com